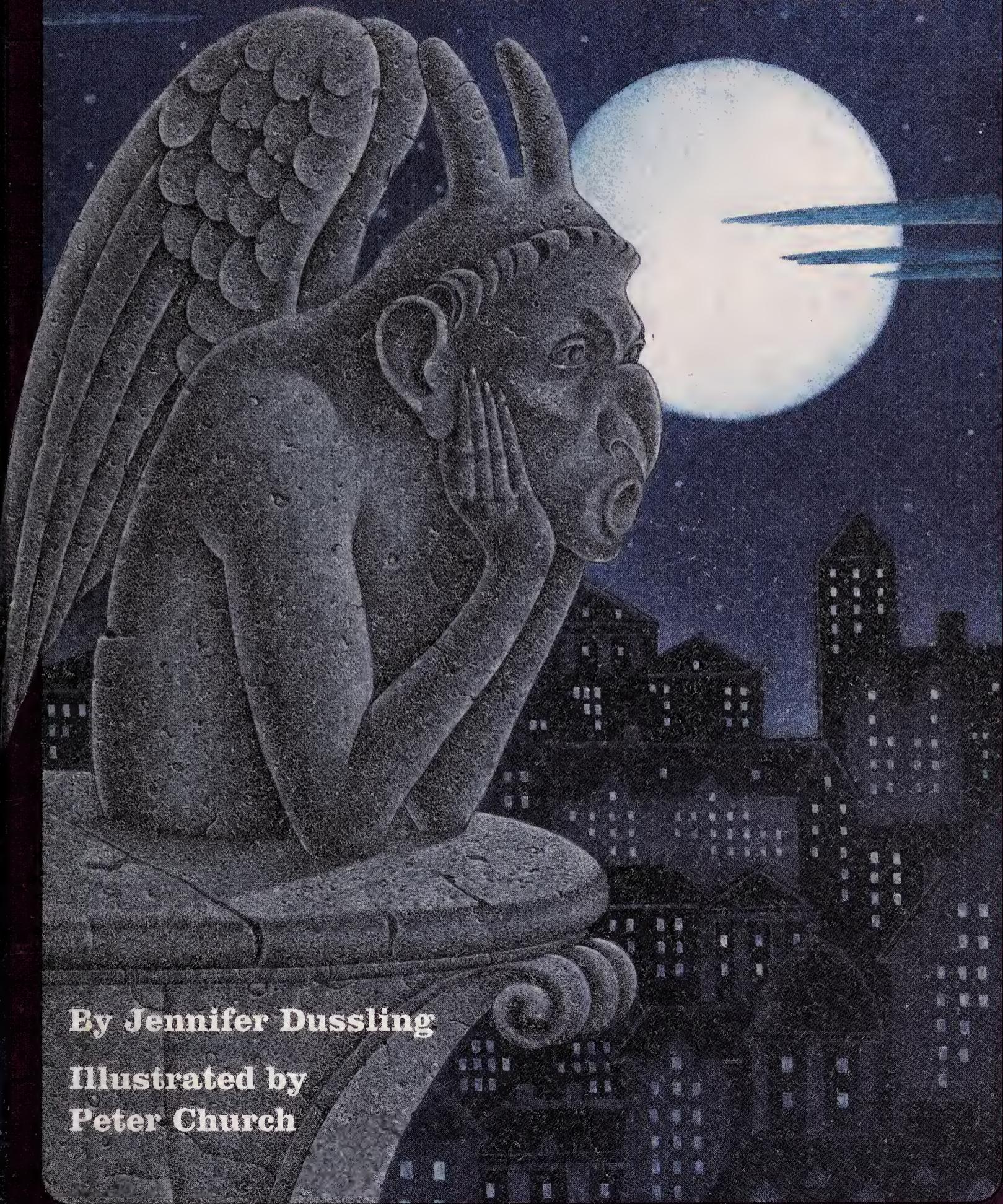


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GARGOYLES

MONSTERS IN STONE



By Jennifer Dussling

Illustrated by
Peter Church

GRB



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Dussling, Jennifer.
Gargoyles

JUL 14 1999

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For Garrett—J.D.

To my parents, Peggy and Joe Church B.E.M.
—P. C.



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ALL
ABOARD
READING™

Level 2
Grades 1-3

Gargoyles

MONSTERS IN STONE



By Jennifer Dussling
Illustrated by Peter Church

Grosset & Dunlap • New York



High in the sky they keep watch

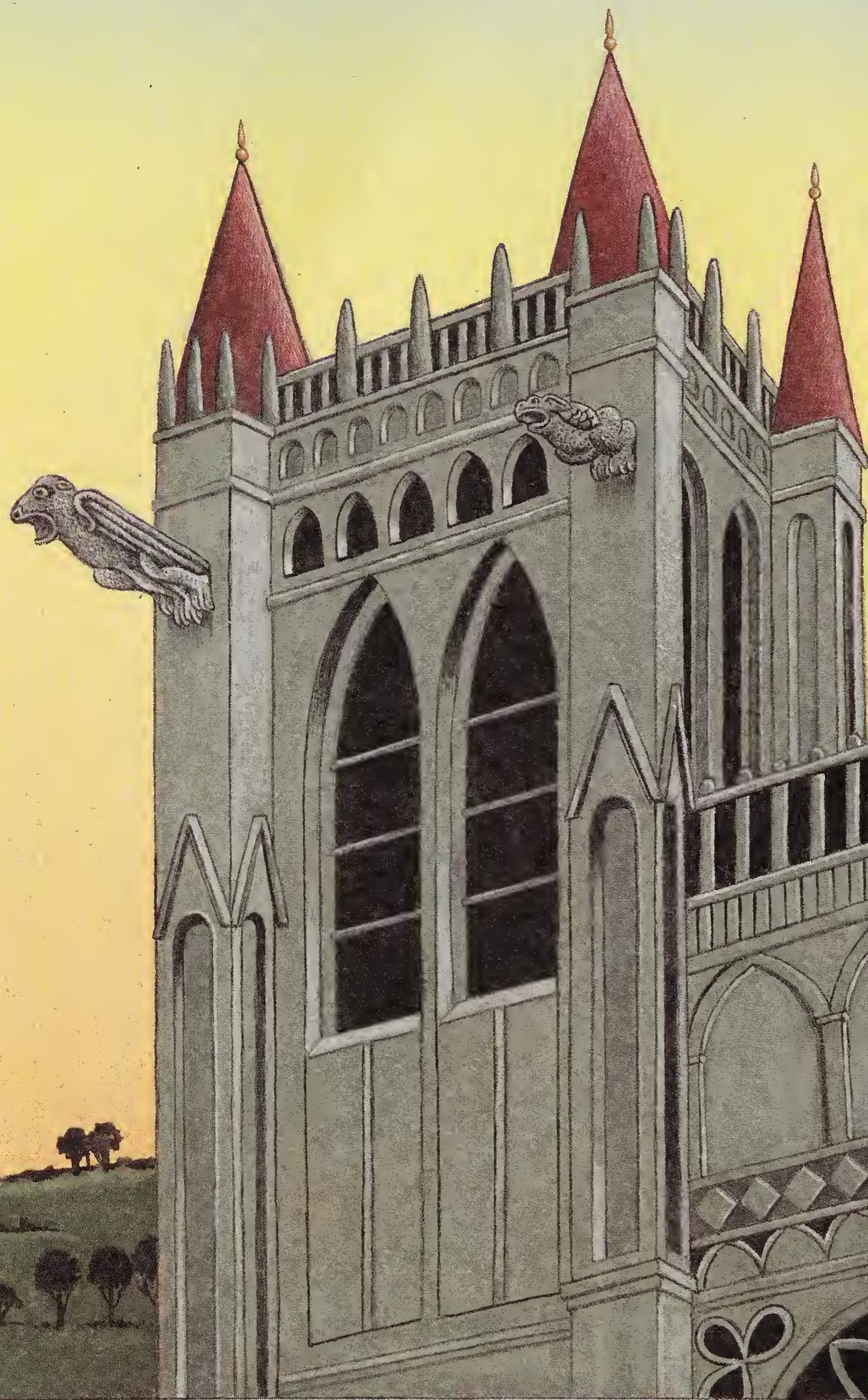
from the tops of churches.

They have grasping claws

and gaping jaws.



Look closely and you will see
that monsters lurk.



They are monsters of stone—
gargoyles.



A gargoyle

(you say it like this: GAR-goil)

is a stone statue

that is weird or strange-looking.

They were very popular

in the Middle Ages,

back in the time of knights and castles.







Many gargoyles are found on churches.
In the Middle Ages,
the church was the most important place
in every town.





People were proud of their churches.
So builders filled every corner,
inside and out, with stone statues.

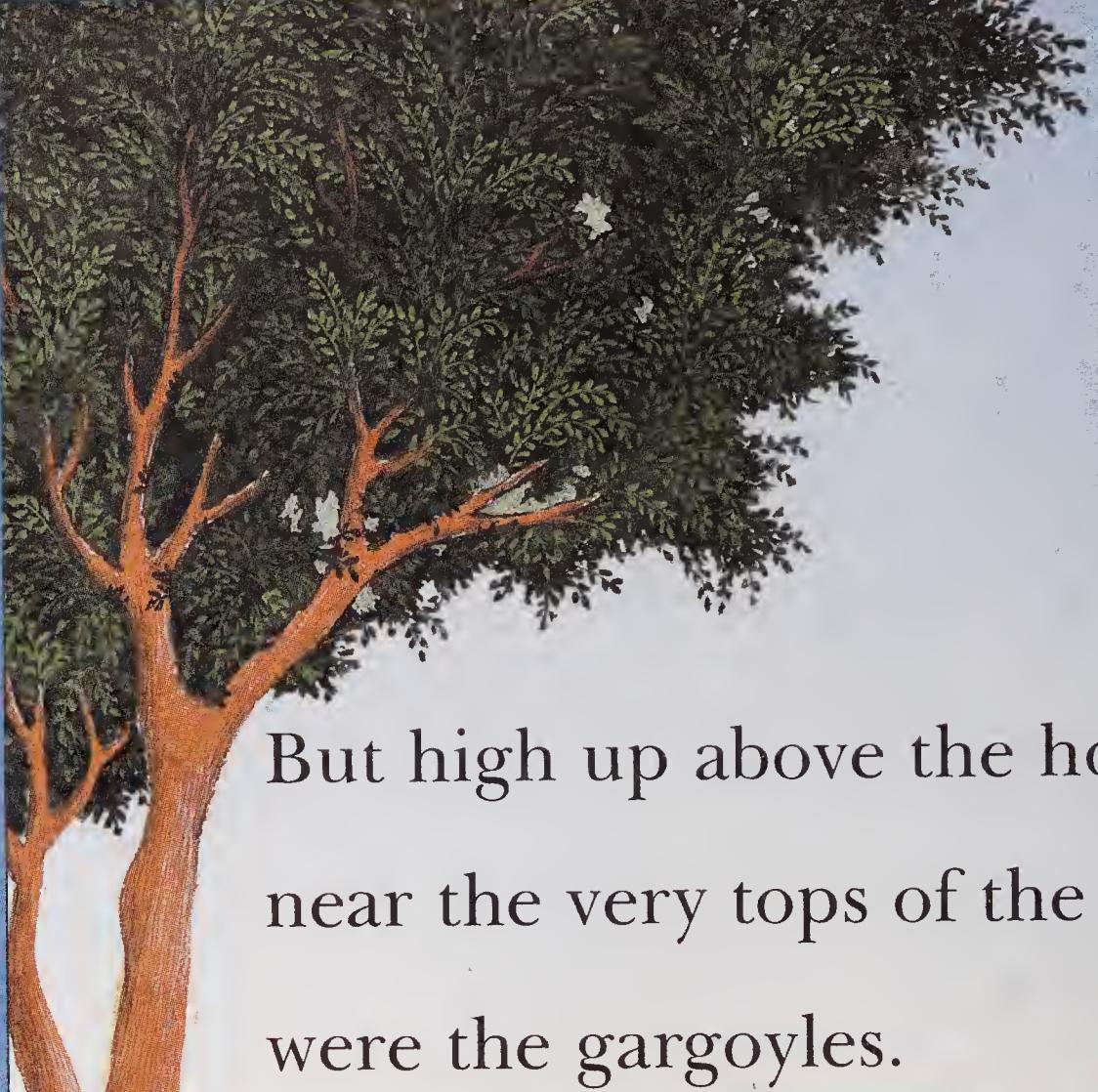


Inside the churches were statues
of Jesus, Mary, and the saints.

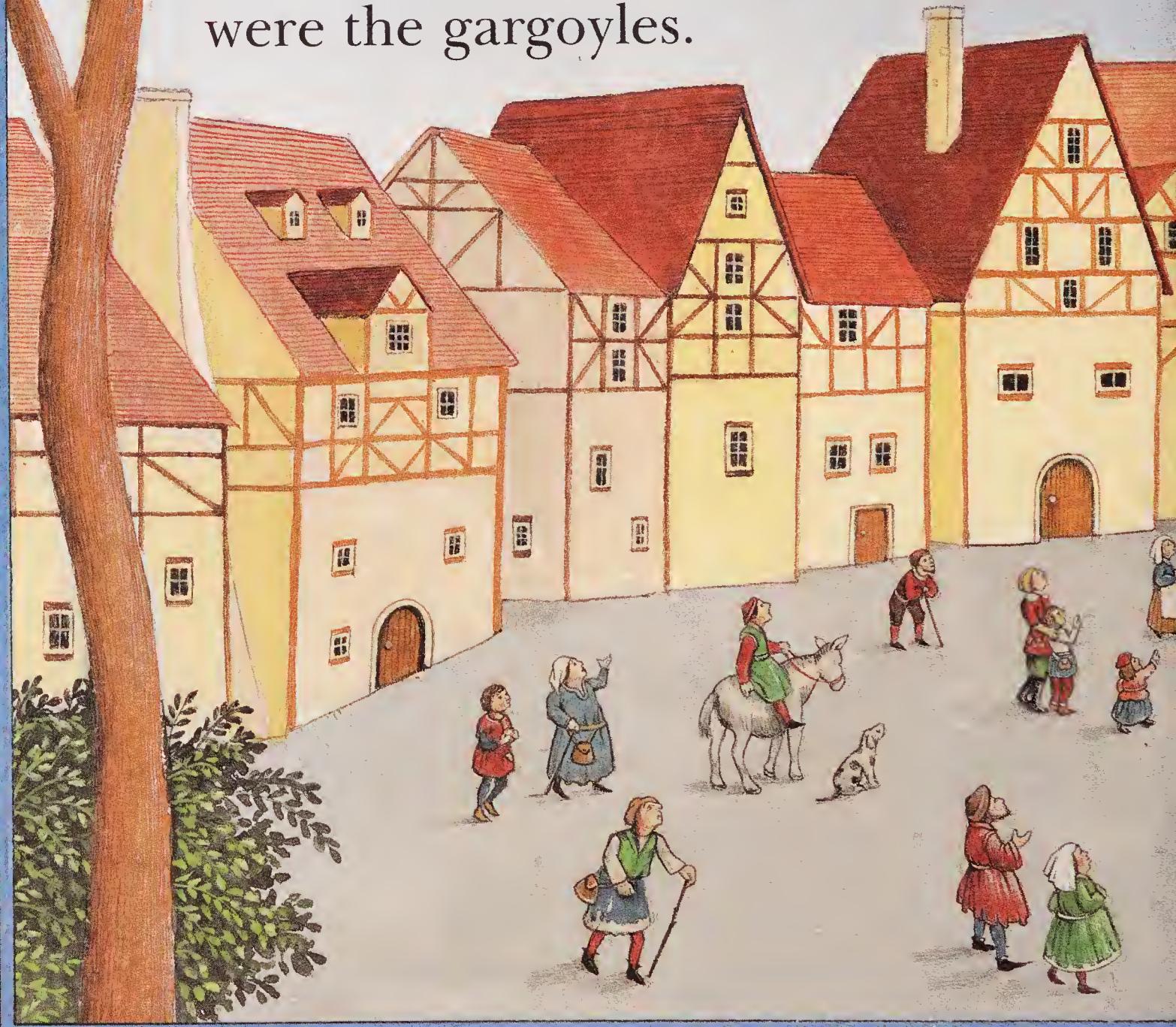


Outside there were statues
of holy people, too.





But high up above the holy people,
near the very tops of the churches
were the gargoyles.





Why would anyone carve a monster
on a church?

Some people think it was
to scare people into being good.



Other people think gargoyles
kept away evil spirits.





The fact is we don't know exactly why

they look like they do.

But we do know

what gargoyles were used for.

They drained off water.

Rain could wear away

the stone of a church.

So gargoyles kept the water

away from the church's walls.





They were like fancy, funny drainpipes.

Rain ran through the pipes
in their bodies.

Then it shot out their mouths!

That is how gargoyles got their name.

“Gargoyle” comes from a French word
that means “throat.”

And think about it.

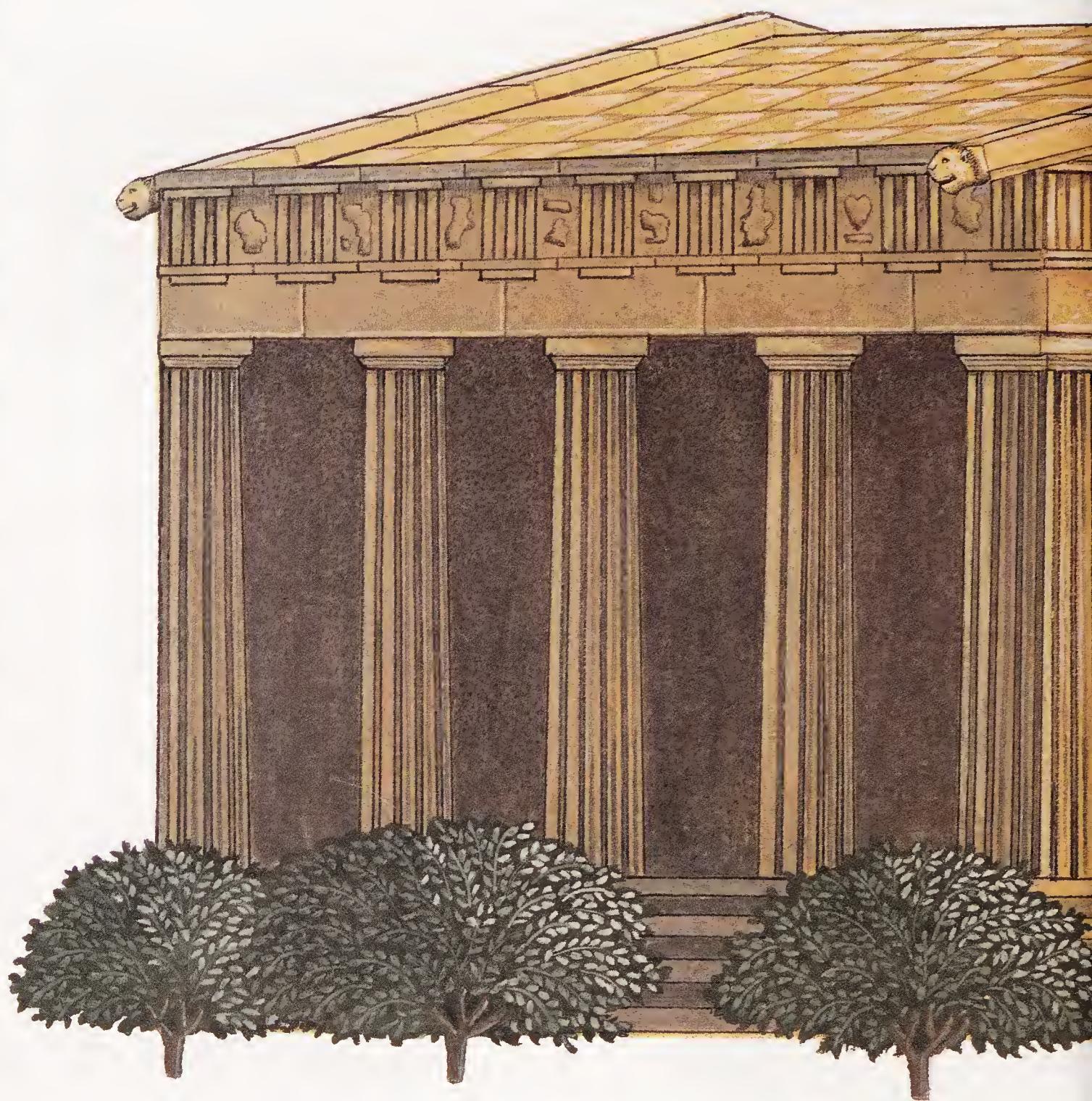
Gargoyle sounds a lot like
the word “gargle.”

And that is what gargoyles did.

They held water in their mouths.

Then they spit it out.





Gargoyles were not new
in the Middle Ages.
Carvers made lion heads
on Greek temples.



There were also
animal waterspouts
in ancient Egypt.



Most people think of a gargoyle
as a monster.

But gargoyles can be people.

Some are
happy
people...



silly people...



scary people.



This gargoyle is
pulling his mouth open
and sticking out his tongue!



Other gargoyles are real animals—
dogs, foxes, rams, fish, pigs,
and monkeys.



Some were a mix of animals.

Or half person and half animal.



Here is a lion gargoyle.

It doesn't look much like a lion.



The man who carved it
probably never saw a real lion.
He may have heard of lions.
Maybe he pictured one in his head.
Or maybe he saw a drawing
in a book.



It was hard work to carve a gargoyle.

First the carver picked
a block of stone.



Then he took some
chalk and drew
the gargoyle on it.

Because gargoyles are so high up,
they can be hard to see.

So carvers made
big, wide mouths.

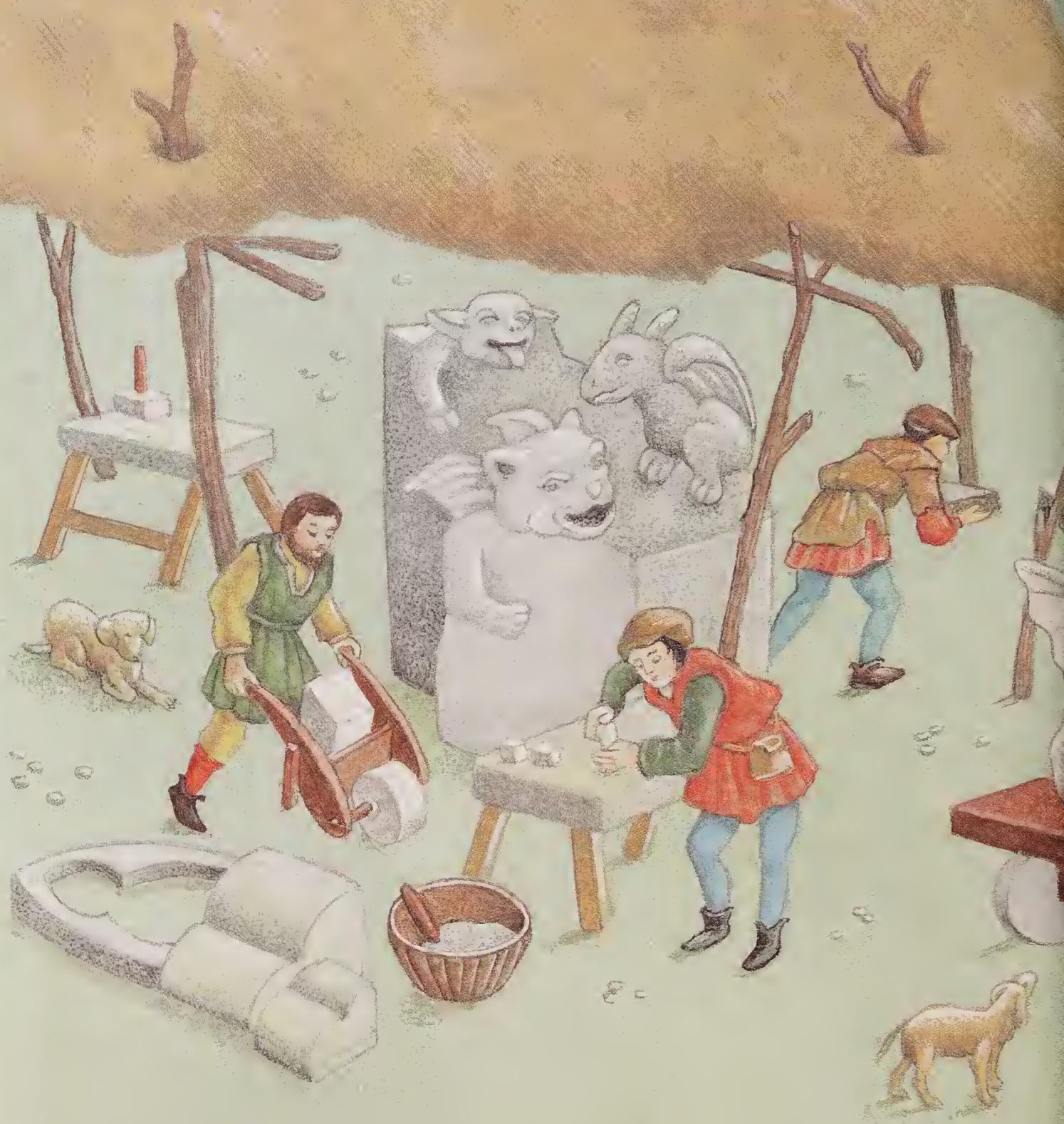
They made deep eyes.

They gave the gargoyles
extra-long noses and ears.



That way even far down below,
people still could see the faces.





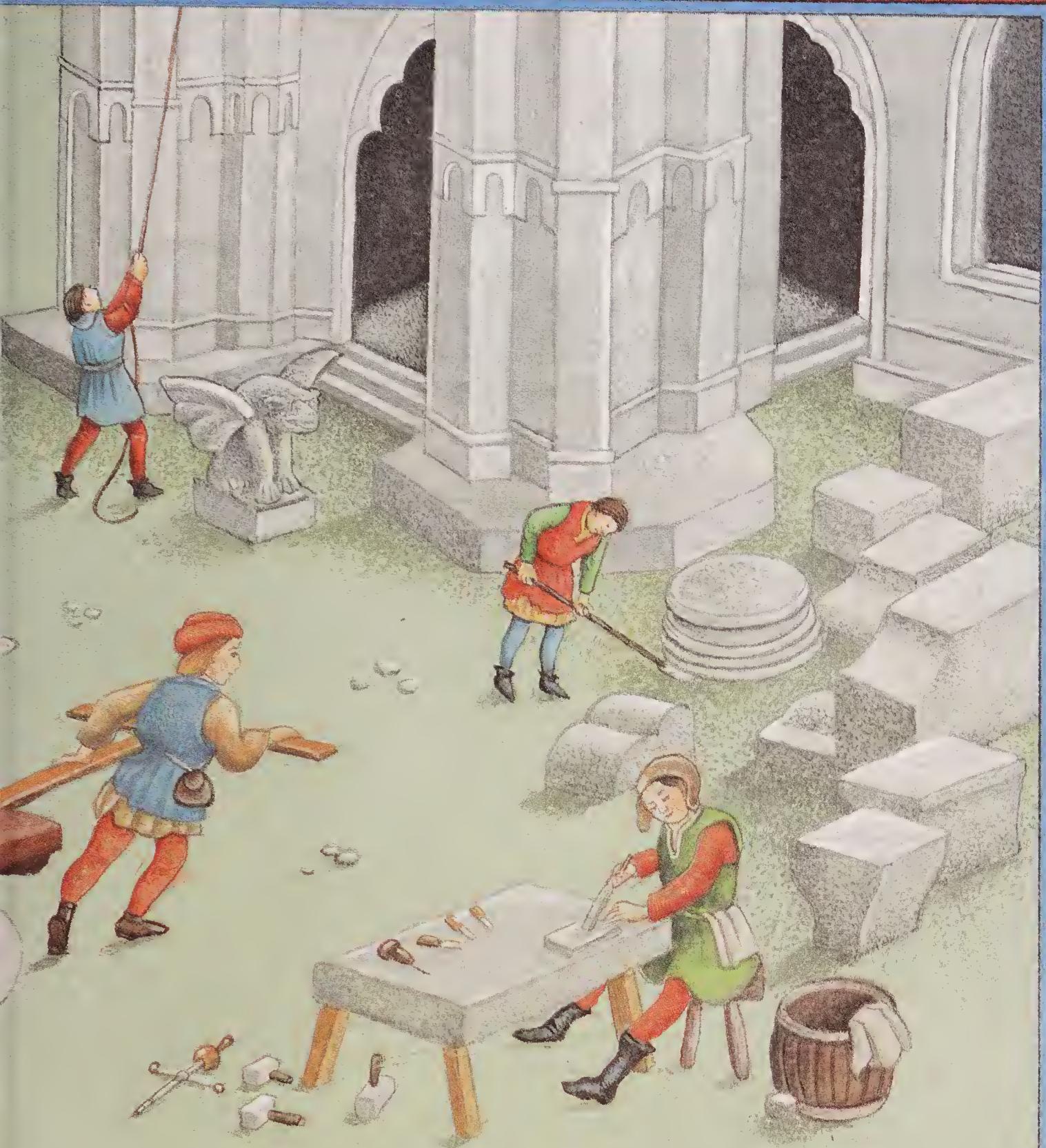
What tools did stone carvers have?

Just hammers, chisels, and drills.

Rock is very hard.

A carver had to sharpen

his tools all the time.



The carver worked on the ground.

He did not carve high up on the church.

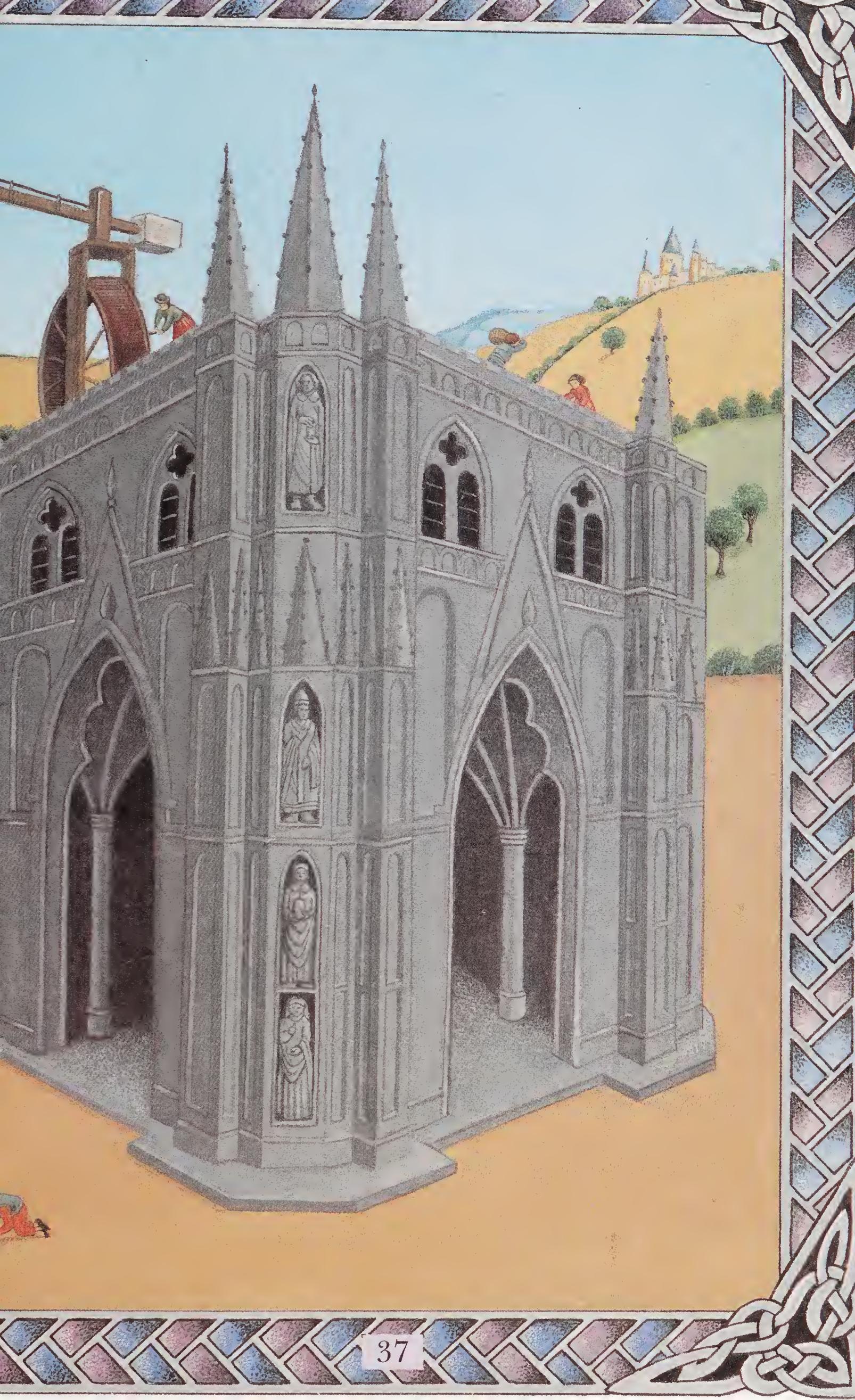
That would be too dangerous.

A piece of rock could fall

and hurt somebody.

When the gargoyle was all done,
workers would put it in place.





Carving was hard work.

But it was probably fun, too.

For the statues of saints and holy people,
the carvers had to follow rules.

But for a gargoyle,

a carver could do what he wanted.

Sometimes it was a way

to poke fun at a person.



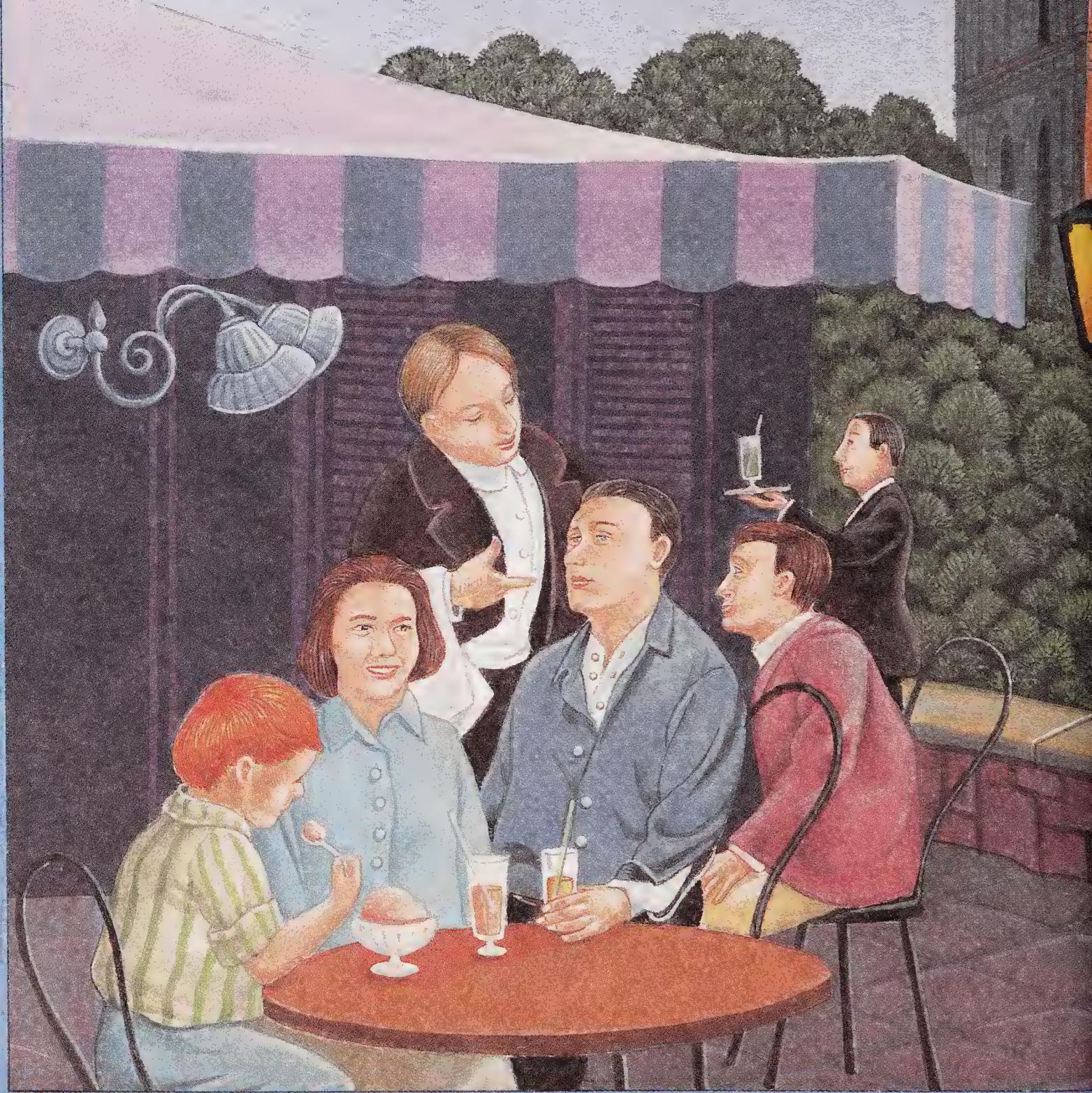
We think some old gargoyles
are based on real people.

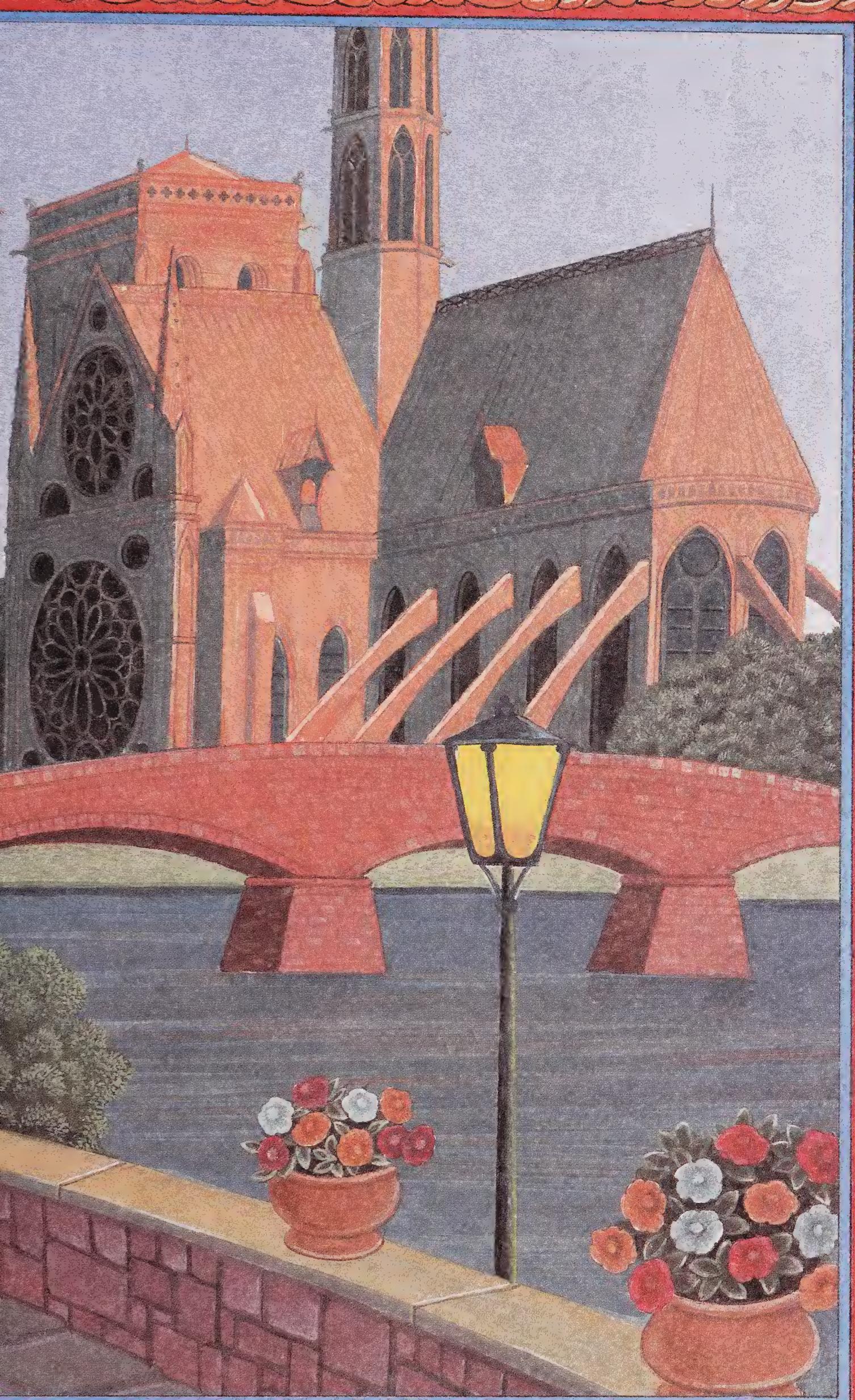
Who does this gargoyle look like?



The most famous gargoyle
in the world are in Paris.
They perch high up
on a huge church.

It is called Notre Dame
(you say it like this: No-tra Dahm).





There are elephants
and panthers and goats.
There are monsters, too,
with horns and wings and hooves.

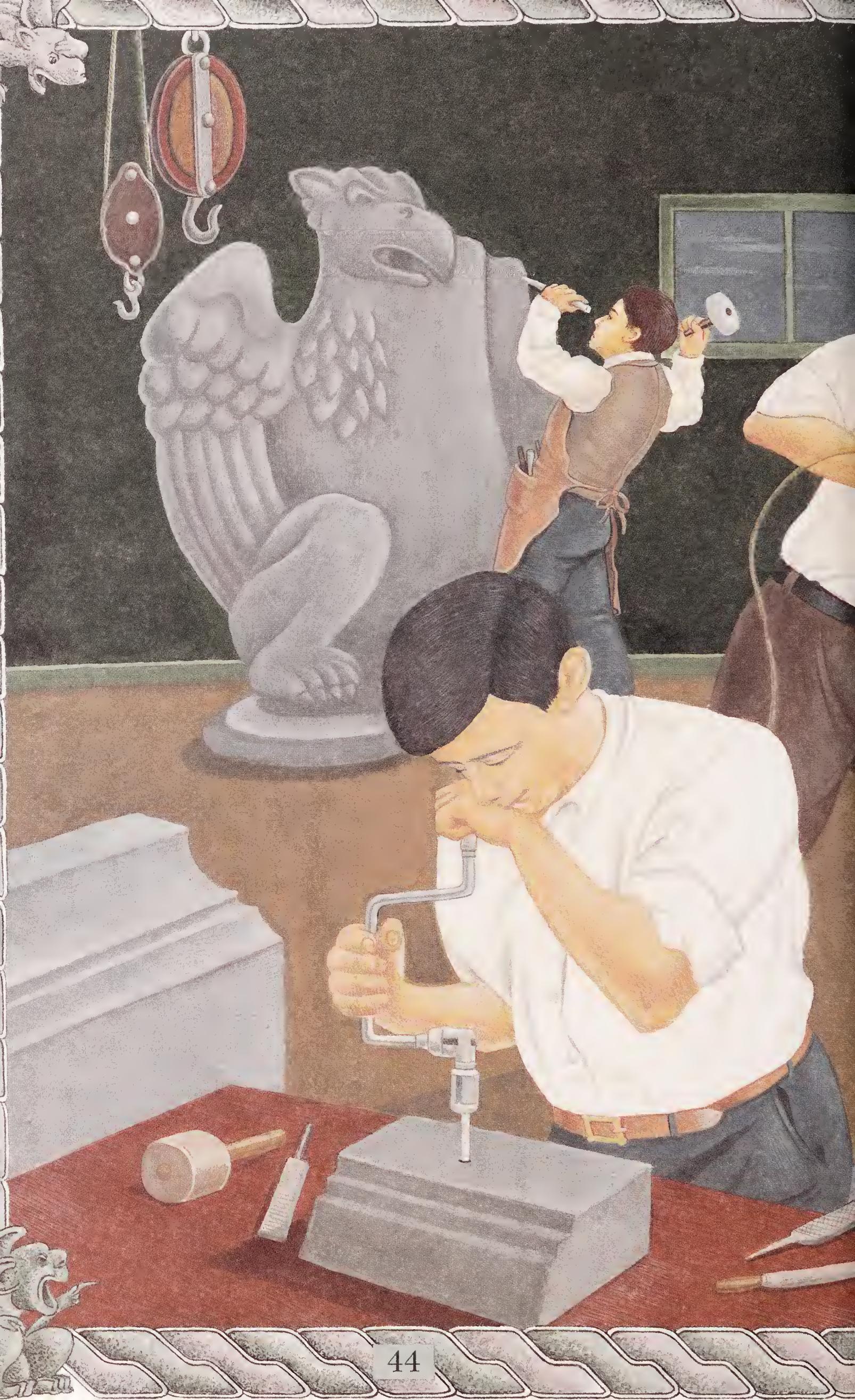




Many are very scary.

They watch the people below.

They look like they will fly down
at any moment.





Gargoyles still are carved today.

And carvers still use the same tools—
chisels, hammers, and drills.

But they have modern tools, too!



This church is in Washington, D.C.

It was started in 1907.

And it still isn't done!

It will have lots of gargoyles.

People can even get
their very own gargoyle.



A dentist gave a lot of money
to the church,
so a special gargoyle
was made for him.

It is a man cleaning a BIG tooth!

You don't have to go far

to see a gargoyle.

There could be some in your town.



So don't forget to look up.

A gargoyle may be watching you!

Gargoyles Monsters in Stone

Have you ever seen a gargoyle?

Sitting high up
on a church or
staring down from
an old door?

Read this book and find out
why they are there.

You might be surprised!

